

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

4 Sabat 7 1. A radially expandible luminal prosthesis comprising:
2 a cylindrical frame having a distal end, a proximal end, and an outer
3 surface for insertion into a body lumen, wherein said frame comprises a radiopaque
4 material which varies in thickness over an axial length of the cylindrical frame so that the
5 radiopacity of the frame varies correspondingly.

1 2. A radially expandible luminal prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein the
2 cylindrical frame comprises stainless steel and a radiopaque material is coated over the
3 stainless steel.

1 3. A radially expandible luminal prosthesis as in claim 2, wherein the
2 radiopaque material is selected from the group consisting of gold, platinum,
3 platinum/iridium, tungsten, and tantalum.

1 4. A radially expandible luminal prosthesis as in any of claims 1 to 3,
2 wherein the radiopaque material is thicker near the ends of the cylindrical frame than over
3 the midsection.

1 5. An improved radially expandible luminal prosthesis of the type
2 comprising a cylindrical frame having a distal end, a proximal end, and a midsection
3 therebetween, wherein the cylindrical frame is modified to be radiopaque at each end but
4 to remain sufficiently radiolucent over the midsection to permit fluoroscopic viewing of a
5 blood vessel lumen in which the prosthesis is implanted.

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